



OCV Advocate

OFFICE OF CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Serving as a voice within state government for crime victims and their families

sexual assault in washington state

a survey of women

**"...over one third
of all women in
washington state
have experienced
some form of
sexual assault in
their lifetime..."**

*sexual assault experiences
and perceptions of community response
to sexual assault: a survey of
washington state women,
harborview medical center
november 2001*



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Over one-third of all women in Washington State have experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime according to a recently released study sponsored by the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy. This study, one of the first state-specific examinations of the nature and extent of sexual assault, was conducted by Lucy Berliner, MSW and David Fine, Ph.D in partnership with survey researchers at Washington State University. The research examined the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault, the experiences of sexual assault survivors, and the perceptions of community members about community safety and services available to victims. The findings provide unique insight into the nature of sexual violence in this state and hold important implications for enhancing sexual assault services.

The decision to undertake this survey was made in partnership with the Statewide Sexual Assault Services Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from sexual assault programs around the state. Researchers worked in conjunction with OCV staff and a group of representatives from the sexual assault field to identify primary research questions and to determine the nature and scope of the survey. To implement the study, the researchers randomly surveyed adult female residents of Washington State to elicit information about the prevalence of sexual assault in Washington State, the characteristics of assault experiences, reporting rates, and access and barriers to services.

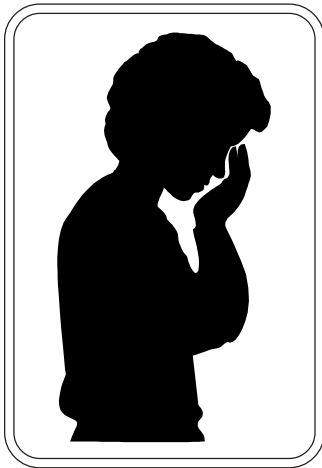
The incidence survey investigators surveyed 1,325 women in Washington

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State. Survey respondents ranged in age from 18 to 96 and roughly matched ethnic, racial and socioeconomic characteristics of the Washington State population as a whole. Of these women, approximately 38% reported experiencing some kind of sexual assault during their lifetime. Sexual victimization experiences ranged from unwanted touching to forcible rape, with roughly 23% of women indicating that they had been forcibly raped. Approximately 15% of respondents experienced attempted rape, and 9% of women had experienced a sexual assault when they were incapacitated or unable to give or withhold consent. The overall rate of victimization did not vary significantly between different regions of the state.



Researchers also examined whether rates of sexual assault varied among different racial and ethnic groups. Generally, sample sizes in ethnic minority groups were too small to draw strong conclusions about the experiences of women of color in Washington State. A few significant differences did emerge, however. American Indian women were significantly more likely to have been raped (48%) than Caucasian women

(22%). Additionally, women who identified as being of Hispanic Origin (33%) were more likely to experience rape than non-Hispanic Women (23%). OCVA is considering additional research to further explore the unique experiences of women of color, and of men, as victims.

One of the most significant findings to emerge from this research is that over 80% of all types of assault happened prior to the age of 18. This suggests that Washington's youth are particularly vulnerable to abuse. The trend carried forward into adulthood, with nearly half of all adult victimizations occurring between the ages of 18 and 21.

While these statistics are astounding, we also acknowledge that the survey could not reach vulnerable adult women - those women that were homeless or institutionalized.

Additionally, younger women responding to the survey were more likely than older women to report sexual assault. For example, women under fifty at the time of the survey were significantly more likely (28%) to report having been raped than older women (16%), suggesting the possibility that rates of sexual assault may actually have increased in the past few years.

Sexual assault experiences can involve single or multiple experiences with one or more offenders. The most common situation reported in this study was a single episode committed by a single offender, although a substantial percentage of cases (30%) involve multiple assaults committed over time by the same person. Relatively few cases involve multiple offenders during a single episode. Almost one-fifth of the women had been

victimized on different occasions by different offenders. Those who experienced their first assault as an adult were more likely to have had a single event committed by one person and were less likely to have had multiple victimization experiences.

"...over 80% of all types of assault happened prior to the age of 18 ..."

Every woman who experienced multiple victimizations was first assaulted during childhood, suggesting that early intervention and prevention is vital not only in ameliorating the impact of assault but also in reducing the risk of revictimization.

Respondents were also asked to share information about the nature of the assault they experienced. Women reported that coercion and threats were more common tactics of force than the use of weapons, which were present in only 8% of assaults. Injuries occurred in one fifth of cases, but were more common in rape victims (29%) compared to those who did not experience rape (6%) – e.g., women who were victims of attempted rape, forced sexual contact, non-consenting sex, or non-forced child sexual abuse. One third of women reported that they thought they might be killed or seriously harmed during the assault. This

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Resources



The Alcohol Drug Help Line Domestic Violence Outreach Project

Offering information about detox, ADATSA, Washington State Coalition on Women's Substance Abuse Issues, gender specific treatment options and other treatment/support group options for those impacted by both substance abuse and domestic violence in Washington State.
206.722.3700
1.800.722.3700

Grantwriters! Tired of Looking for the Needle in the Haystack?



Call 561.795.6129 for more information about Research Grant Guides, Inc. Some of the following titles are for sale:
Directory of Operating Grants, 6th Ed.
Building and Equipment Grants, 6th Ed.
Grants for Organizations Serving People with Disabilities
Computer and Software Grants

HopeLine Initiative

Verizon Wireless Communications collects old wireless phones for refurbishing and recycling. They give non-profit domestic violence groups usable phones or funds to purchase new wireless phones for domestic violence victims.

HopeLinesm Program
c/o Verizon Wireless
1776 East Ellsworth Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
1-800-426-2790
between the hours of
9:00 AM to 9:00 PM EST
Monday - Saturday,
and between 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST on Sunday



End Violence Against Women: Information and Resources

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs offers online resources providing researchers, health communication specialists, policy makers and others with information and materials needed in their work to end violence against women. Documents, reports, journal articles, policy documentation, training materials, posters and radio programs available. For more information:
111 Market Place Suite 310
Baltimore, MD 21202
Endvaw@jhucpp.org

bullying decreases

Community Links Magazine,

Sept. 2001, highlighted Oak Harbor High School in Washington State. Bullying, harassment and intimidation were decreased in the high school due to:

- 1) Increased staff presence in the lunchroom.
- 2) Surveillance video cameras in the lunchroom.
- 3) Identified student harassers required to attend Harassment Awareness Training class.
- 4) A Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program pairing up high school and middle school youth.
- 5) Workshops with students, parents, school staff, victim service advocates, police officers, counselors and concerned community members.

A COPS School-Based Partnership grant of \$135,800.00 provided funding for police, the school and CADA to work on lessening the bullying, harassment and intimidation in the high school. Focused on "catching abuse low in order to prevent abuse high" (Community Links, p.9) students reported oral assaults and school officials disciplined culprits to prevent physical assault. Follow-up surveys showed 42% of students and 28% of faculty noticed changes in numbers or types of bullying behaviors and in the school's response to such behavior.

For more information on the Oak Harbor community's approach to decreasing bullying, harassment and intimidation in the high school, contact: Martha Folsom, Administrative Assistant, Oak Harbor Police Department, 860 NE Barrington Drive, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. Phone: 360.679.5551. E-mail: martha.folsom@oakharbor.org

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figure increased to 45% for women who were raped.

Reinforcing a large body of previous research, this study found that very few perpetrators of sexual assault were strangers to the victim. The largest group of offenders overall (52%) were acquaintances or persons known but not related to the victim. Approximately 33% of children were victimized by fathers or other relatives. Interestingly, 13% of childhood assaults were perpetrated by partners or ex-partners, suggesting that teens experience significant rates of date rape in the context of romantic relationships. For all victimizations (child and adult), 92% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by relatives, intimate partners or acquaintances.

The incidence survey also explored the experiences of victims who sought help or support following their assault. Only 61% of women reported that they had ever told *anyone* about their experience. Women who were younger at the time of the survey were more likely to have told someone than older women, perhaps suggesting improvements in the extent to which survivors feel safe coming forward about their experiences. Over 50% of victims reported that telling someone was very helpful or completely helpful, although teenagers as compared to children and adult victims found telling less helpful. Only 38% of all victims sought supportive services following their victimization including medical care, counseling or rape crisis services. Clearly,

continued work is necessary around increasing awareness and accessibility of sexual assault services.

Even fewer women reported their experiences to law enforcement (15%). Again, age was an important factor in rates of police reporting with women under 30 years reporting at much higher rates (26%) than women over 60 (3%). Over one-third of women who reported to police had a legal advocate assist them with their case, and approximately 50% of reports resulted in charges filed against the offender. An especially encouraging finding emerged as over 61% of victims reported that their experience with the police were somewhat, very or completely helpful. Law enforcement departments in Washington should be congratulated for their hard work on behalf of survivors.

Finally, the research asked both victims and respondents who had not experienced sexual assault about their impressions of community safety and resources available to survivors. Interestingly, victims (37%) were more likely than women who had not been victimized (33%) to say that personal safety for women has improved. There were no differences between sexual assault victims and women who had not been victimized regarding levels of concern for their own personal safety. About 48% of all women were somewhat or very concerned about their own personal safety.

Additionally, most women are aware of available services in their community. Survivors of sexual assault were more likely to be aware of the local

"...about 38% of women did not tell anyone about their assault. continued work around breaking the silence about sexual assault and increasing community support for victims is critical."

community sexual assault program (69%) than non-survivors (60%). Victims and non-victims were equally likely to be aware of medical services specifically for sexual assault survivors, with 67% of respondents indicating knowledge of medical resources. Additionally, 49% of respondents feel that the community response to sexual violence has improved, with victims significantly more likely than non-victims to believe that the community is more responsive to survivors than before. Still, nearly 30% of all respondents are unaware of local services for survivors, suggesting the need for on-going community education and awareness work.

Taken together, these findings hold significant implications for the enhancement of sexual assault service delivery in Washington. The results indicate that the vast majority of sexual assaults occur during childhood with a significant percentage occurring during teen years. Additionally, the results suggest that women who were assaulted as teens found disclosing less helpful than women who were assaulted as children or as adults, and that teens were less likely to have a legal advocate. These results imply that teens may be underrepresented among victims seeking services, and that

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Tool Kit To End Violence Against Women

Providing concrete guidance to communities, policy leaders, and individuals engaged in activities to end violence against women
Developed by the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women
Available at:
<http://toolkit.ncjrs.org>

Funding Updates

OCVA received two federal discretionary grant awards with federal fiscal year 2001 funding. Two projects will be funded under each award.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

Enforcement of Tribal Protection Orders Project:

Assisting tribes, bands and nations throughout Washington State to develop and implement practical strategies promoting victim safety. Four to five regional forums and one statewide conference will be held:

- 1) encouraging tribal and non-tribal representatives to develop projects promoting cross-jurisdictional protection order enforcement
- 2) enhancing communication between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement and advocates
- 3) supporting development of partnerships within the criminal justice system

Protection Orders for Victims of Sexual Assault Project:

Enhancing protection order use and enforcement for victims of sexual assault. Consists of a survey and research of current use

of protection orders for sexual assault victims.

Includes assessment of enforcement difficulties between jurisdictions, especially tribal.

The project will also develop documents describing legal and practical applicability of protection orders enhancing the safety and protection of sexual assault victims.

The project's final component is a multi-discipline, multi-jurisdictional training on using and enforcing protection orders for victims of sexual assault.

Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program

Amigas Project:

Continue providing community education, early intervention, helping victims access services and safety, delivering legal advice and representation in emergent family law cases to isolated rural immigrant and migrant farm workers in Yakima county.

Enhancement of original project goals by expanding activities to include establishing services and advocacy to Benton and Franklin counties by creating a linked project in Kennewick.

Columbia Legal Services will partner with Consejo Counseling and Referral and Columbia Basin Domestic Violence Services.

Island Domestic Violence Outreach Services:

Continue providing:

- 1) Advocacy, emergency services and service coordination to domestic violence victims on Vashon Island.
- 2) Community outreach/education programs targeting early domestic violence awareness intervention and prevention.
- 3) Strengthen partnerships with community agencies to improve service coordination addressing issues of domestic violence and related community social service issues.

housing discrimination ended

Oregon's "zero-tolerance" policy allowing entire households to be evicted in the event of domestic violence was overturned early in November.

Tiffanie Alvera was represented in a lawsuit against The C.B.M. Group by a wide consortium of advocates: the United States Government, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Oregon Law Center, ACLU Women's Rights Project attorneys and NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Alvera was given a 24-hour eviction notice in early August 1999 after she informed apartment managers that she had obtained a temporary restraining order against her husband. The lawsuit filed in Alvera's behalf stated that the C.B.M. Group illegally discriminated against her on the basis of her sex since the vast majority of domestic violence victims are women.

The case was initially filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, after the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) investigated, determining that Alvera's rights were violated.

Settlement terms require the management company (The C.B.M. Group) to stop applying its "zero-tolerance" policy to innocent victims of domestic violence.

The C.B.M. Group manages property in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Oregon. Attorneys state that the settlement will serve as a model for ending discriminatory eviction of domestic violence victims.

The agreement is in effect for five years. The federal government will monitor to ensure compliance.

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available services may not adequately address teen clients' unique needs. Many women do not tell anyone about their experiences, suggesting that, despite three decades of building awareness, prevention efforts and expanded services, they still feel unsafe coming forward about their experience. Continued work to break the silence about sexual assault and increasing community support for victims is critical. In connection with the finding that a significant minority of women are unaware of available services, these results hint at a continued need to critically evaluate outreach efforts and to ensure that all citizens have access to quality services as well as information about those services.

OCVA plans to carefully review the findings of the survey in collaboration with key stakeholders within Washington State. Discussions and analysis of results will include staff from the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, the Washington State Sexual Assault Services Advisory Committee, and other partners from state and local agencies. These discussions will help to inform policy and service delivery initiatives that may emerge from the survey findings.

OCVA is considering follow-up research to more fully capture experiences of male survivors of sexual assault and of various racial and ethnic minority groups. The results of future research may be used to create a more detailed picture of sexual violence in Washington State and to further assess gaps in service delivery.

OCVA staff welcome comments, thoughts and discussion regarding these findings.

Please call OCVA at 1.800.822.1067 for additional information, copies of the report, or to speak with a sexual assault services program staff member.



Fifth Circuit Upholds Ban

The U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, upheld the 1994 statute prohibiting persons subject to restraining orders from carrying guns in *U.S. v. Emerson*. The decision was announced October 16, 2001. The court's opinion affirmed a victim's right to be free from ongoing threats of gun violence. This decision represents a victory for families threatened by gun violence at home.

Turn about - fair play

In September 1999, federal agents raided the home and offices of Thomas and Janice Reedy in Fort Worth, Texas. Landslide Productions, suspected of selling subscriptions to websites offering child pornography, was owned by the Reedy's. The website grossed up to \$1.4 million in just one month, one of the largest commercial child pornography businesses unmasked.

While investigators found what they suspected, they also hit an unexpected jackpot. They uncovered Landslide's subscriber list. The list contained the names and location of over 35,000 customers worldwide. The majority of the names were found in the United States. Under the code name Operation Avalanche, investigators began the process of tracking down the Landslide's individual subscribers.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Department of Justice, Dallas Police Department and thirty federally funded Internet Crimes Against Children task forces joined together in targeting the Reedy's customers. Task force members operated the Landslide website. Customers received controlled deliveries of child pornography and search warrants were immediately executed after delivery. There were 144 searches in 37 states. 100 arrests resulted from the operation.

The Reedy's have been sentenced to a combined total of 1,349 years in prison.

federal funding opportunity 2002

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program is now soliciting applications. This grant encourages jurisdictions to implement mandatory or pro-arrest policies as an effective domestic violence intervention that is part of a coordinated community response.

Concern for victim safety should guide the actions of all involved partners in a coordinated community response. (For more information about coordinated community response, see the *OCV Advocate*, Winter 2000 Issue, Vol. 8, No. 3.)

Some program purposes include:

- Implementing mandatory arrest or pro-arrest policies.
- Centralization and coordination of police, prosecutors and courts, judges, parole officers.
- Community driven initiatives addressing violence against women among diverse, traditionally underserved populations.
- Collaboration between domestic violence advocates, programs, child protective services and criminal justice agencies to provide support and resources to battered women and children.
- Judicial education regarding domestic violence.
- Development or strengthening of policies and training for police, prosecutors and the judicial system in recognizing, investigating and prosecuting domestic violence and sexual assault against older individuals

and persons with disabilities.

The expected philosophy base recognizes domestic violence as a crime and holds offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest and prosecution.

Victim advocates, law enforcement, pre-trial service personnel, the criminal justice system, parole officers and community leaders are challenged to work together in crafting solutions to domestic violence.

States, tribal governments, state and local courts, and units of local government are eligible to apply.

Individual awards for local governments will not exceed \$600,000.00. Statewide, regional programs will not exceed \$1,200,00.00. There is \$3,246,250.00 set aside for Indian tribal governments.

Letters of Intent due: 1/10/02
Final Application due: 1/31/02



**For complete information
about this project description
and an application packet
contact the
Department of Justice
Response Center,
toll-free at 1.800.0421.6770
or on-line at:
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/
undopps.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/undopps.htm)**

federal response to trafficking victims

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced on July 20, 2001 that the Department of Justice and the Department of State were issuing new regulations concerning the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

The regulation instructs federal law enforcement personnel, immigration officials and State Department officials to provide trafficking victims with legal protections and other assistance during case investigation and prosecution.

Victims of trafficking, particularly those transported for forced prostitution and forced labor, are to be identified by federal officials.

Victims are to be protected and:

- Informed of their rights
- Provided information regarding low-cost or pro bono legal services
- Access to translators
- Access to medical assistance
- Access to domestic violence and rape crisis centers and other victim service organizations as needed.

The regulation resulted from multiple governmental agencies reviewing their interactions with trafficking crime victims.

The new regulation will allow for the implementation of the Act as well as ensuring the basic rights of crime victims at the federal level to be treated with fairness and respect.

Summarized from the Summer/Fall 2001 *Victim Policy Pipeline*, Vol. 7, Iss. 2

INFORMATION

The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy serves as a voice within state government for the needs of crime victims in Washington State. It is administered by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

OCVA advocates on behalf of crime victims in obtaining needed services and resources; administers grant programs for sexual assault treatment and prevention services, violence against women, domestic violence legal advocacy, and court appointed special advocates; assists communities in planning and implementing services for crime victims; solicits suggestions on state practices, policies and priorities to help communities respond to the needs of crime victims, and reviews the organization of crime victims services in state and local government. The Office also makes recommendations to the Governor and other policy makers on crime victims programs.

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The OCVA Advocate is a quarterly publication of this Office. Unless otherwise noted, articles were written by OCVA staff. Topic ideas for future issues may be sent to the address below.

upcoming events

January 30 - Feb. 1, 2002

Setting Sail & Staying the Course

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Presented by The Domestic Violence Enhanced
Response
Team

Co-Sponsored by the Pikes Peak

Domestic Violence Coalition

719.444.7813

holmesca@ci.colosprgs.co.us

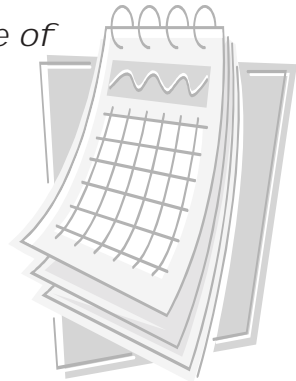
March 6 - 8, 2002

*National Child Welfare League of
America Conference*

Washington, D.C.

202.638.4004 Fax

[www.cwla.org/conferences/
default.htm](http://www.cwla.org/conferences/default.htm)



April 15-16, 2002

*Impact: multi-disciplinary
considerations in*

sexual abuse and assault

Everett, Washington

presented by the Providence Everett

Sexual Assault Center

425.258.7130

dvuillmot@providence.org



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Department of Community, Trade
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P.O. Box 48304
Olympia, Washington 98504-8300



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